

I still remember all the people on Social Security who call in and say, gee, I got a letter from a past Congressman and he thinks Social Security is going to be gutted, but if you will give \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, we will save that legislation. I have not been around here as long as a lot of folks but 15 years, and I will tell you most of that legislation is saved right now.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more examples here, I can see I have used my 5 minutes, but I would surely hope that people are wise enough, prudent enough, and have enough judgment to realize when they get these letters, are they predicated and grounded in truth or are they just some way to pick up a fast buck for a lot of people?

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I hope all my California people right now are watching me and listening to me today, especially senior citizens, because I would like to talk about Medicare.

I am deeply concerned about all this rhetoric that is going on, frightening senior citizens by twisted information and disinformation. I would like to get the facts straight tonight.

I was an engineer all my life. I have been dealing with the facts, numbers. I used to get straight A's in all the math and physics. Tonight I am going to talk about facts again and perhaps dealing with the simple numbers.

All this rhetoric that is going on, saying that we give millions and millions of dollars tax credit to rich people at the expense of senior citizens by cutting Medicare spending. Let me get this straight. Give a tax credit to rich people? Let me get a little chart here.

The tax cut we are talking about is \$500 tax credit to the child support, \$2,000 for child adoption. That is what we are talking about. The tax credit is coming from a non-Medicare spending cut, roughly \$622 billion, the money is coming from this fund. Not the Medicare money, not the Medicare trust fund.

By doing this, we can save \$377 billion for deficit credit. By giving a tax credit to child support, we can stimulate the economy, thus create more jobs and more revenue to Government.

Besides, Congress passed an amendment to the Medicare bill to prohibit transferring any money from Medicare to other funds. It is illegal to transfer money from Medicare to other general funds. It cannot be done. So how can they say that we are giving all the million-dollar credit to rich taxpayers at the expense of a Medicare cut? That is absolutely false. It is not true.

The second argument is that we are cutting too fast too much. That is another rhetoric that I cannot accept. Let us talk about that quickly. Too fast. What do you mean by too fast?

Because according to the Medicare trust fund report, Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years. We have got to save it.

Oh, yes, we have a plan, a counterplan to extend it out to 10 years, same general plan. But if Medicare is bankrupt in 7 years, how can you save it in 10 years? Let me show a little chart to show what we are doing.

We are talking about cutting too fast too much. Here it is.

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Right now, the Medicare part A has been financed by payroll taxes. You pay half; your employer contributes the other half.

Is it fair to you that we have to raise the taxes so you can subsidize the existing Medicare plan? Of course not.

Let us take a look at the part B. This is what you are paying. The beneficiary only pays 31 percent. Other taxpayers are subsidizing by 68 percent. In other words, beneficiaries only pay one-third, and other taxpayers have to subsidize by two-thirds. It used to be half and half. It keeps going up. If you do nothing, within 7 years the beneficiary will only pay 18 percent; the other taxpayers have to subsidize by 82 percent. Is it fair, asking other taxpayers to pay almost 90 percent of the Medicare plan? Of course not.

All we are trying to do is maintain this relationship, one-third paid by the senior citizens, two-thirds paid by the other, younger taxpayers. We feel that is fair. We would like to maintain that same proportion, same 31, one-third, and two-thirds relationship.

They call that a cut. Is it really a cut, trying to maintain the same ratio of one-third, two-thirds? Is it really cutting too much to try to maintain the same ratio?

Right now, the Medicare price has gone up out of control. Part B last year alone has gone up 12 percent while the private plan only has gone up 1.5 percent. The price is out of control.

There is so much waste and fraud going on in the Medicare system. That is why we try to correct it, try to save the Medicare from bankruptcy. It is fair to everybody, fair to the younger generation as well.

Again, I would like to readdress again to my Democrat colleagues who argue \$270 billion Medicare savings is too much. They believe that \$90 billion is enough to save the system. Let me tell you, their plan would leave Medicare with a \$300 billion deficit just at the time the first wave of baby boomers reach retirement. This is going to be chaotic when the baby boomers decide to retire.

This Democrat plan will not work. We have got to do something now. Of course, it is better not to do anything and let it bankrupt it. But they are not going to get a quick decision.

I think that solving the Medicare problem is difficult now. But imagine when the baby boomers hit, it is going to be really chaotic.

Again, we are not cutting Medicare to provide a tax cut for the rich. We are not cutting too much too fast. Instead we are trying to save the Medicare from bankruptcy to preserve fairness for the working families.

AMERICAN DIES IN CUSTODY OF PALESTINIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues who are here will listen to what I am going to read to them. A man named Mohammed Rahim Mosleh, an American citizen, was picked up for questioning Wednesday at a cafe by plainclothesmen who identified themselves as agents of Jericho's preventive security police on the West Bank, now the new domicile of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

He was picked up. He was dressed only in his trousers when his body was returned today at 2:00 a.m.

Now get this, my colleagues, his forehead was bruised blue, his lip was torn open, blood had flowed from one ear, and there were what appeared to be burn marks on his right foot, like cigarette burns, according to family members.

Palestinian security officials speaking on conditions of anonymity, said Mosleh was overcome by the 98 degree heat in Jericho and had a heart attack. Get that, he had a heart attack with his head smashed in, his lip bleeding, his blood coming out of his ear and burn marks on his feet.

A doctor at Jericho's hospital, where Mosleh was dead on arrival, refused to issue a death certificate. The certificate would normally include a cause of death.

Witnesses said Mosleh was playing cards at a village coffee shop when six men identifying themselves as preventive security agents for the PLO approached his table Wednesday and invited Mosleh outside. They said they were investigating a theft of gold from his sister and asked him to come with them to Jericho. When he did not return that night, his wife and two of his sons drove to Jericho on Thursday to ask about him. Preventive security agents twice told them to come back later, assuring them that Mosleh was there.

On the third trip, another agent said preventive security knew nothing about his whereabouts.

Now, I am for the peace process in the Middle East. We all want there to be peace in the Middle East, and we want it to work out between the Israeli Government and the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, and the PLO forces. But